

The PRESIDING OFFICER. without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 12, 1999, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

• Mr. CLELAND. This great nation, which was born as a nation of immigrants, is quickly becoming even more one of many faces, many voices, and many ideas, and it is this diversity which is one of our greatest assets. One of the fastest growing populations in our Nation today is the Hispanic American population. I rise before my colleagues today to bring attention to and celebrate the occasion of Hispanic Heritage Month.

This month of recognition is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the wide-ranging achievements and contributions of the Hispanic American population. This is a community with leadership which is notable in every facet of our society, a community filled with courage and persistence who have continually shown a commitment to family, business and education, and economic growth.

America's diverse and vibrant Hispanic population has made an enormous contribution to the building and strengthening of our nation, its culture, and its economic prowess. As the 21st century approaches, Hispanic Americans are poised to play an increasingly prominent role in our Nation's political, economic, and cultural life.

Look no further than Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson; or Small Business Administration head, Aida Alvarez; Chicago Cub Sammy Sosa; or entertainers Ricky Martin and Jennifer Lopez; or business leaders like Sal Diaz-Verson of Columbus, Georgia or the late Roberto Goizueta. Hispanic Americans offer a valuable and vital social, intellectual, and artistic component of American society and their culture deeply enriches the vast American landscape.

What unites Hispanic Americans is a fundamental respect for the traditions and values of their native lands combined with a strong commitment to the American dream. In return, we in the Congress must show a commitment to a legislative agenda that addresses the needs and priorities of Hispanic American families, which are in fact the same as the those of most Americans. We must continue the policies that have laid the foundation for the long-

est peacetime expansion of the economy, improve and strengthen our education system, provide access to quality healthcare, and protect this nation's children from crime and drugs.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the valuable contributions of the Hispanic American population and honoring Hispanic Heritage Month.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan, as they celebrate their 15th Anniversary, and to pay tribute to those whose lives have been affected by the Holocaust.

The work of the Holocaust Memorial Center and especially Executive Vice President Rabbi Charles Rosenveig is truly commendable. In working to keep alive the spirit of those who suffered, the Holocaust Memorial Center helps us remember. In highlighting the rich history and culture of the Jewish people, the Holocaust Memorial Center helps us learn.

The events of the Holocaust cast a dark shadow over history. And while it is painful to remember, the Holocaust Memorial Center will not let us forget. Indeed, their mission is expressed in their logo, which is composed of four Hebrew characters that spell the word *Zachor*, which means "remember."

On behalf of the United States Senate, I extend my warmest regards and best wishes to everyone in attendance at the 15th Anniversary Dinner and to all who have helped make the Holocaust Memorial Center an important educational resource for the State of Michigan and the country. I wish them continued success in their important mission.●

THE 6 BILLIONTH PERSON

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, at 12:02 AM this morning the six billionth person was born. It was a boy, in Sarajevo.

It took hundreds of thousands of years for the world's population to reach 1 billion, but it has taken less than 40 years for it to double from 3 to 6 billion people. This is a staggering number with implications that are impossible to fully grasp or predict.

What we do know, however, is that 95 percent of new births are occurring in developing countries that are least equipped to deal with the consequences. From sub-Saharan Africa to Asia, people's most basic needs continue to go unmet.

Of the 4.8 billion people in developing countries, it is estimated that nearly 60 percent lack basic sanitation. Almost a third do not have access to clean water. A quarter do not have adequate housing and a fifth—about 1 billion people—have no access to modern health services.

We also know that population pressures threaten every aspect of the

Earth's environment. Severe water shortages, shrinking forests, soil degradation, air and water pollution and the daily loss of animal and plant life have changed the face of the planet and contributed to famine, social unrest and massive displacement of people.

This is not to minimize the progress that has been made in slowing population growth rates. Thanks in large part to the availability of modern contraceptives, the average number of births per woman has declined from 6 to 3. In addition, people today enjoy longer, healthier lives than ever before. Women have more opportunities and choices. Technology has enhanced access to medical care, education and employment. In every corner of the globe, we have seen the dramatic successes that have been achieved through vigorous, well-funded foreign assistance programs.

But the disparities between haves and have nots is growing. Given what we know about the inextricable link between population growth, poverty, political instability, lack of social justice and environmental degradation, it is astonishing to me that every year there are those in Congress who continue to oppose funding for international family planning.

It is inexplicable that even though the world's population has doubled since 1960, Members of Congress, especially in the House, vociferously oppose funding the United Nations Population Fund which promotes access to voluntary reproductive health services for women around the world. They do so because UNFPA has a small program in China, which supports women's health, modern contraceptives, and other voluntary family planning services. It makes absolutely no sense, since these are precisely the interventions that reduce reliance on abortion as a method of family planning.

And this year's Foreign Operation's bill contains only \$385 million for the Agency for International Development's family planning programs, a \$150 million cut from what it was just five years ago.

It is a travesty that so many people around the world want family planning services and still cannot get them. Time and again it has been proven that when these services are available the number of abortions declines, lives are saved and opportunities for women, children and families dramatically increase.

It is also shortsighted. The decisions we make today will determine how long it will be before another billion people occupy this planet and whether our children and grandchildren are born into a world of poverty and deprivation or a world of opportunity and prosperity.

Mr. President, today is a sobering reminder of the need for the United States to resume its leadership in support of international family planning. We have the ability to help improve the lives of billions of people both now and in the future.●